



# Neighborhood Habitat Challenge

The Neighborhood Habitat Challenge is an annual contest of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Every year the City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) challenge its neighborhoods to make Austin a more wildlife friendly city. Prizes are awarded to the top three winners. Neighbors certify the most number of wildlife habitats within their neighborhood between April 15th and November 15th 2012.

Some Helpful Resources:

[2012 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Flyer](#)

[FAQ About the 2012 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge](#)

[2012 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Guidelines](#)

[Neighborhood Registration Form](#)

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**2011's winners were:**



## **1<sup>st</sup> Place – Windsor Park**

Windsor Park won the 2011 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge with 11 NWF certified wildlife habitats. Windsor Park has a history of being a friend to wildlife, winning the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge in 2009 with 60 certified habitats!! Congratulations Windsor Park!!



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Northfield**

The Northfield neighborhood had 8 yards certified as NWF wildlife habitats. In early June, working in the summer heat, they beautified the stretch of Chesterfield Avenue between North Loop and West 56<sup>th</sup> street. They planted several trees and bushes, and installed a birdbath! Great job Northfield!



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Dawson**

The Dawson neighborhood actually tied for 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2010 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge. This year they rose to the challenge with 2 newly certified habitats. This included the Mollie Dawson Elementary School as a new schoolyard habitat! The Dawson residents worked together this year to clean up their section of East Bouldin Creek as part of their community habitat project. Great job Dawson!

The following neighborhoods have participated in the challenge to date.

**2011 [Map](#)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Windsor Park
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Northfield
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Dawson

**2010 [Map](#)**

- 1st Place- Bouldin Creek
- 2nd Place- Heritage Hills- Woodbridge
- 3rd Place- Southwood
- 4th Place Tie- Dawson & West Creek
- 5th Place- Harris Branch

**2009 [Map](#)**

- 1st Place- Windsor Park
- 2nd Place- Crestview
- 3rd Place- Copperfield
- 4th Place- Hancock

**2008 [Map](#)**

- 1st Place- Jester Estates
- 2nd Place- Allandale
- 3rd Place- Highland Park West Balcones Area
- 4th Place- Rosedale
- 5th Place- West Austin Neighborhood Group
- 6th Place- Copperfield

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**This year make your neighborhood a winner for wildlife!**

Meeting the criteria for certification by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is simple and will help your neighborhood in its effort to win the challenge and ensure that Austin maintains its status as a NWF certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

The Parks and Recreation Department's Wildlife Austin program sponsors the challenge. Wildlife Austin is an initiative to educate and support Austinites in the creation of wildlife habitats to benefit its people, wildlife, and biodiversity.

It's easy to create homes for wildlife in our city! Properties that provide food, water, cover, places to raise young for wildlife and practice sustainable gardening practices are eligible for NWF wildlife habitat certification. Schools, places of business and worship, and other community sites can also be counted in the Habitat Challenge! For more

details about NWF habitat certification visit: [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife).

You can even certify your property with a Pre-Paid NWF habitat certification application courtesy of the City of Austin. Email [wildlife@austintexas.gov](mailto:wildlife@austintexas.gov) for an application today. Please include your mailing address and phone number in your request.

Creating habitat is as simple as...

- Planting native plants that provide nectar, pollen, seeds, and berries year round
- Including a reliable water source to attract a variety of critters
- Providing places for cover and rearing young such as planting evergreen shrubs, leaving rock piles or putting up a birdhouse

For more information about the [Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Requirements](#)

Photos by PARD employees